

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Goals: Projects proposed to enhance safety net capabilities will aim to enhance core County service capacity to address long-term recovery needs and prepare for future disasters; ensure the post-fire mental health and resiliency needs of the community are met; and build capacity with cross sector partners and community members to improve coordination and communication.



NATURAL RESOURCES

In addition to the tragic loss of life and the destruction of homes, businesses, and public infrastructure from the October 2017 fires, wildlands and working landscapes were also burned. New collaborative efforts are underway during recovery.

Vision: The vision for this strategic area is that Sonoma County's natural resources are healthy and productive. They are managed to support community and watershed resiliency and protect public health and safety, and contribute to enhanced recreational opportunities and economic vitality.

Goals: The primary natural resource goals informed by meaningful collaboration with community partners and agencies are to: reduce forest fuel loads strategically to lower wildfire hazards to communities and sensitive habitats, improve delivery of resources and amenities people need, and move forests on a trajectory of increased resistance to drought, disease, and insects; protect and enhance stream systems to lessen wildfire danger to communities, support water supply and drought tolerance, and provide flood attenuation while sustaining ecological functions and biological diversity; and build on prior and continuing investments in natural resources acquisitions, monitoring, technical studies and partnerships to integrate best available science into outreach efforts, policy development, regulations, incentives, and land use planning decisions.



NEXT STEPS

The collaboration between the community, partners, other agencies and the County during the development of the Framework was an important first step to set all of us on a path to recovery and resiliency. In the next phase, under the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Recovery and Resiliency will oversee the implementation of proposed actions, pursue project funding, and develop key indicators to track recovery and resiliency. A list of the proposed actions captured during the development of the Framework is posted at www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/ORR.

THE EVENT

THE SONOMA COMPLEX FIRES

Wildfires erupted across Sonoma County the night of October 8, 2017, eventually sweeping into Santa Rosa. More than 5,300 homes and businesses were destroyed, 24 people died and 110,000 acres burned. Thousands of homes across Sonoma County were incinerated in a matter of hours. Tens of thousands of terrified residents fled for their lives, many with just the clothes on their backs. The blazes officially became known as the **Sonoma Complex Fires**.



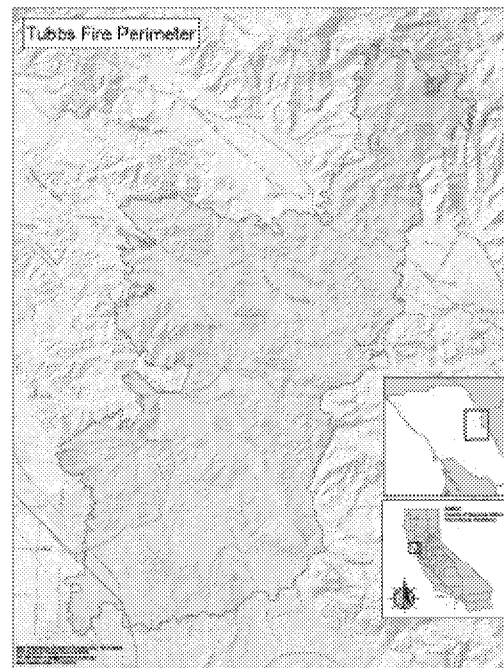
THE SONOMA COMPLEX FIRES

The **Tubbs Fire** was the most destructive in terms of the number of homes destroyed and lives lost. It started near Calistoga and roared west, through the Mark West Springs and Larkfield/Wikiup areas, then raged through Fountaingrove and finally jumped Highway 101 and devastated Coffey Park in northern Santa Rosa. Twenty-two people died and 4,658 homes were destroyed. Five percent of Santa Rosa's housing stock was gone overnight. Nearly 37,000 acres burned. The speed and ferocity of the Tubbs Fire stunned residents and officials. The scenes of utter destruction shocked the state and nation.

Tubbs Fire Overview

| MANAGEMENT | ACRES BURNED |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Private Ownership | 30,160 |
| Non-Profit – Conservation | 2,796 |
| State Agency | 1,513 |
| Regional Park District | 801 |
| County Agency | 799 |
| Non-Profit – Land Trust | 614 |
| City Agency | 50 |
| Federal Agency | 41 |
| Water District | 33 |
| TOTAL | 36,807 |

The Tubbs Fire




THE SONOMA COMPLEX FIRES

About the same time as the Tubbs Fire, a handful of fires north of the City of Sonoma—the Nuns, Adobe, Norrbom, Partrick, Pressley and Oakmont blazes—erupted. They later combined to become known collectively as the **Nuns Fire**, which burned 56,556 acres in and around the Sonoma Valley, including the communities of Kenwood, Glen Ellen, and Oakmont. The Nuns Fire eventually raced through Trione-Annadel State Park, the Bennett Ridge area and threatened Rohnert Park, destroying 639 homes.

The **Pocket Fire** northeast of Geyserville burned 17,000 acres and three homes.

| | Nuns Fire Overview | | Pocket Fire Overview | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | MANAGEMENT | ACRES BURNED | MANAGEMENT | ACRES BURNED |
| A vast majority of the area burned was private land. The area burned covered steep mountains, to gentle rolling hills, to flat valley bottoms in urban areas, to urban areas. | Private Ownership | 44,841 | Private Ownership | 17,255 |
| | State Agency | 6,755 | Federal | 70 |
| | County Agency | 1,753 | State Agency | 20 |
| Given the swiftness of the fires, entire communities were left without much time to collect their belongings, or plan any kind of strategy to save their property. | Special District | 1,457 | TOTAL | 17,345 |
| | Non-Profit | 1,354 | | |
| | Federal Agency | 396 | | |
| | TOTAL | 56,556 | | |
| Returning home to the destruction was also difficult, because basic things like water, clean air, or power took days to weeks to return. | | | | |

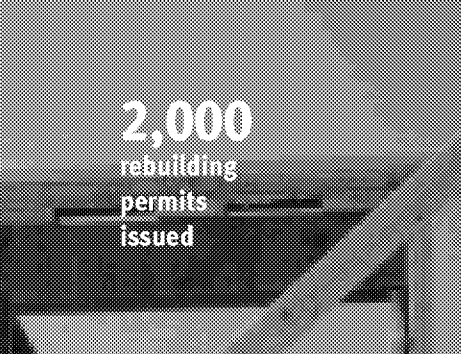
THE SONOMA COMPLEX FIRES



24 lives were lost
and the fire consumed
110,000 acres.

Overall, some 7,000 structures, including homes, commercial buildings, and outbuildings, were destroyed in Sonoma County. Two major hospitals were evacuated and damaged. More than 100,000 residents were evacuated, some for weeks. Thousands of firefighters from across the United States, Canada, and Australia arrived to help local crews battle the blazes on multiple fronts. The fires were finally contained by October 31.

Even as the fires burned, recovery efforts began. The immense task of quickly and safely removing fire debris from over 5,300 properties resulted in more than 2 million tons of debris being hauled away, the largest such operation since the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco.



2,000
rebuilding
permits
issued



90 miles
of roads cleared



30 rain and stream gauges installed

Over \$1.4M
in Disaster CalFresh
benefits issued



43 miles
of wattles placed



2 million
tons of debris removed



14,022
calls received by
Animal Services



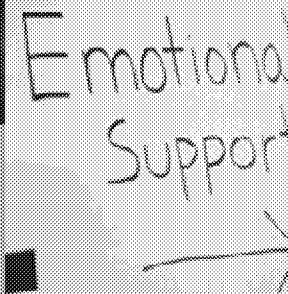
4,162
evacuees
cared for



21,000+
received counseling
from California HOPE



STRONGER TOGETHER



Emotional
Support
→

COUNTY & COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Over 950 fire departments and agencies from around the world ultimately responded to the fires. County workers, local police, fire, medical professionals, and volunteers collaborated to evacuate neighborhoods, coordinate shelters, and get food, clothing, supplies and information to displaced residents.

4,162 evacuees cared for in 43 shelters

52,372 callers helped via emergency hotline

10,000 masks, 2,562 cots, 2,300 sheets and 1,850 pillows distributed in first 72 hours

11,204 residents served at the Local Assistance Centers

Our
community
united

41 County-led community meetings held in first 4 weeks to keep public informed

4,000+ replacement documents issued to victims of wildfires

21,000+ in-person contacts by California Hope counselors

14,000+ calls received by Animal Services to help locate displaced animals

2 million tons of fire debris removed through government-sponsored Consolidated Debris Removal program

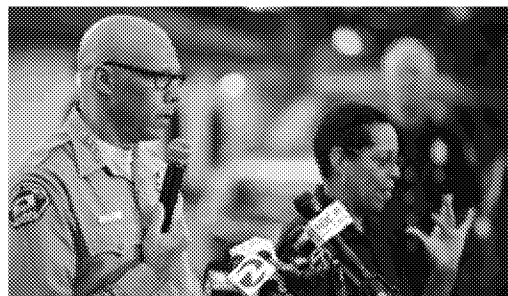
Additional Activities

4,700 people whose income or employment was impacted by fires assisted in filing for disaster unemployment insurance

2,000 rebuilding permits issued by Sonoma County and the City of Santa Rosa as of November 28, 2018

43 miles of wattles ('fiber roll' erosion and sediment control material) placed in burn areas to prevent erosion and protect watersheds

30 rain and stream gauges installed in high-risk areas to predict potential debris flows or flash floods



90 miles of County roads cleared of burned trees and hazardous vegetation

Adopted urgency ordinances to support immediate housing needs, including residential use of recreational vehicles and rental of guest houses

Transitioned recovery support for local companies from the Local Assistance Center to the U.S. Small Business Administration Business Recovery Center

\$1.4M+ in Disaster CalFresh benefits for food assistance issued

Multi-agency Watershed Task Force created a Flood Prevention Post-Fire Hazard Assessment map to keep community safe from potential post-fire flooding and debris flows

Formed an inter-departmental Disaster Finance Team to lead the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance program for the County, coordinating on legal, compliance, and resource issues



FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

OFFICE OF RECOVERY & RESILIENCY

In December 2017, the County Board of Supervisors established the Office of Recovery and Resiliency to work with County department heads to lead and coordinate all recovery efforts in the County with a long-term, strategic approach, and to develop an integrated framework for recovery from the 2017 wildfires that incorporates a long-term vision for a more resilient future.

A priority of the Office of Recovery and Resiliency is to develop and leverage relationships with community organizations, private sector leaders, local city and regional leaders, community members, and many others, to work collectively towards recovery and resiliency together. Following the development of this Framework, the Office will work on detailed implementation planning and performance monitoring to ensure accountability.

PURPOSE OF THIS FRAMEWORK

The Recovery and Resiliency Framework represents the Board of Supervisors' call to action. It reflects the community's vision for a resilient future and presents an approach to achieve it. It capitalizes on our County's strengths and identifies the investments we need to keep Sonoma County strong. The Framework is a foundation for integration of public, private, and non-governmental recovery efforts County-wide, and is informed by residents, community partners, County departments, cities, and other jurisdictions in the County.

Our ability to live safely and securely in Sonoma County depends on both County recovery efforts and forward-thinking resiliency measures. The goals and actions outlined here will provide guidance to the County as it makes difficult decisions regarding the use of limited resources, and as it pursues crucially-needed external funding.

The Framework is structured around recovery efforts in five critical strategic areas: Community Preparedness and Infrastructure, Housing, Economy, Safety Net Services, and Natural Resources. These strategic areas are in line with the Recovery Support Functions identified in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's *National Disaster Recovery Framework* and were adopted locally by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on December 19, 2017. Each area has its own vision, goals, and proposed actions. Planning includes coordination with partners, risk mitigation, continuity planning, identifying resources and developing capacity to manage the recovery process.



PURPOSE OF THIS FRAMEWORK

The Framework:

- Affirms the County vision for recovery and resilience.
- Outlines a process to engage stakeholders.
- Describes how the Office of Recovery and Resiliency will work with County leaders.
- Explains the relationship between recovery efforts and other strategic planning efforts.
- Promotes inclusive coordination, planning, and proactive communication.
- Encourages the whole community to increase resilience.

The Framework is not:

- A single, exhaustive list of every action needed for the County to achieve resilience.
- Static—what we learn as we review our approach and processes may change our next steps.
- A detailed plan with steps for implementation.
- A replacement for or modification of other related County strategic plans.
- Legally binding on future County actions.



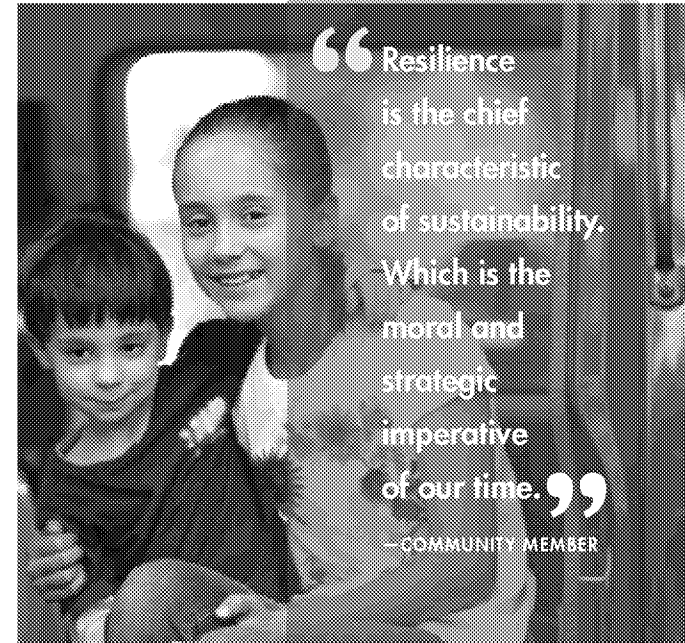
Committed
to the future

A NOTE ABOUT CEQA

The Framework reflects a vision for a resilient future for Sonoma County and all its communities. It incorporates a range of potential future actions that, if implemented, could advance the County toward resilience. However, nothing in the Framework legally binds future County decisions or actions. The Board of Supervisors' approval of the Framework is not a commitment to any particular course of action, and is not a decision to approve, adopt, or fund any of the potential actions identified in this document. For these reasons, approval of the Framework is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines.¹

Whether a particular Framework recommendation is implemented in the future depends on a variety of factors. Each proposed action that is advanced for consideration will be reviewed in accordance with normal internal and public processes, including CEQA review, if applicable. Some identified actions may ultimately be rejected or modified through those review processes. Any recommended action that involves amendments to local ordinances would undergo the normal processes required for legislative actions, including but not limited to CEQA review, opportunity for public review and comment, and public hearings. Similarly, while the Framework will likely inform the upcoming General Plan Update process, the new General Plan will be crafted through an entirely separate process that includes comprehensive CEQA review and a robust public process.

¹ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15262 provides as follows: A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.



“Resilience is the chief characteristic of sustainability. Which is the moral and strategic imperative of our time.”

—COMMUNITY MEMBER

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Sonoma County's Recovery Framework does not replace or modify existing County plans and strategies. It complements existing plans and builds upon existing state and national recovery frameworks and the significant strategic planning work that was already underway across the County prior to the October 2017 wildfires. The Recovery Framework also builds upon planning efforts initiated during and immediately following the wildfires. Collectively, these plans inform post-disaster recovery and the Recovery Framework. This integrated approach ensures that long-term recovery and resiliency goals are considered through implementation of current and future plan actions, especially when plan actions overlap.

The graphic (right) shows the relationship between existing and ongoing plans and strategies and the post-disaster Framework. Existing and ongoing planning efforts inform development of the Framework and the County's recovery priorities and actions. As proposed actions in the Framework are completed, some ongoing plans and strategies may need to be updated to reflect progress towards recovery goals. The outer arrows represent more than updates to specific actions. They represent the continuous and active coordination, collaboration, and alignment that will position the County to achieve its resilience goals.

Ultimately, the Framework serves as a guide for County leaders as they seek to prioritize actions, identify and allocate resources, and maximize opportunities to achieve recovery and resiliency goals not in isolation, but in conjunction with other County plans and planning efforts.

Relationships Among Plans and Strategies

